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[Photos available upon request:](#)

FLICKERS RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES FOR THE 2015 RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

ANNOUNCES EXPANDED ARTS AND HUMANITIES PROGRAMMING FOR THE FESTIVAL IN 2015 AND CELEBRATION OF THE ANTHONY QUINN CENTENARY

The **Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** is one of **10 festivals** to be awarded a grant from the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences**. The grant will support "**Flickers' Short Film Retrospective: Journeys in Filmmaking**" a look back at films that have played at the Festival over the past 18 years and have gone on to be nominated or win an Academy Award®. The grant allows for screenings of Oscar®-nominated and winning shorts previously screened or discovered at RIIFF, post Q&A discussions and a special master class featuring a panel of invited Academy staff, award-winning filmmakers and scholars. This special programming component will take place during the 19th annual Festival, **August 4-9th, 2015**, and complements new Festival initiatives that include an expanded arts and humanities focus -- music, art, culture, food, history and style -- along with a year-long salute celebrating the Centenary of legendary actor, Anthony Quinn.

Steven Feinberg, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Film & TV Office, said, "We enthusiastically applaud the venerable Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for recognizing the tremendous work of Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival and for providing the organization this special grant.

"Flickers' Short Film Retrospective: Journeys in Filmmaking" will boost the promotion of New England's only Academy Award-qualifying festival while offering various opportunities for local moviemakers and film enthusiasts to immerse themselves in the best of world cinema. Congratulations to George T. Marshall, Shawn Quirk, the Board of Directors and all of the loyal supporters of Flickers. Your impact upon our beautiful Ocean State is amazing."

The central goal would be to illustrate the contrast between those films that received nominations and the ultimate winners. In its history, 33 films that either premiered or were discovered at the Festival have received Academy Award nominations and seven have won the coveted Oscar.

After presenting a snapshot of the past, officials from the Academy and past Oscar winners who have screened their films at RIIFF would participate in a panel discussion on the relationship and journey, both present and future, between festivals and the Academy Awards.

Up-and-coming filmmakers in attendance to the 2015 festival would have the opportunity to learn from this panel in a master class setting. This panel would focus on the development and evolution of the short films, the process in which filmmakers take to make it in the industry and the growing importance of the short film genre.

The expansion of the Festival's programming will feature important facets of the cultural life of Rhode Island.

According to **Michael E. Drywa, Esq.**, the Festival's Advisory Board President, "Our goal is to allow the Rhode Island International Film Festival take its next growth step and become a large-scale arts and cultural festival showcasing all of the things Rhode Island does best: film, music, arts, food, culture, tourism, architecture, and much, much more.

"This festival will serve as Rhode Island's cultural calling card on the international stage, much in the way that the Festival International de Louisiane has functioned as a pre-eminent cultural event in Louisiana. Last year, over 300 filmmakers from 26 countries traveled to Rhode Island in August to attend the event. An expanded Festival will help to further market the city of Providence as a global destination with the clear and unique brand identity that has already been firmly established by RIIFF, attracting visitors and talent to the Ocean State."

Reaching that goal of the Festival's expanded focus includes a new music sidebar that complements the film screenings. Partnering with the **RI Music Hall of Fame (RIMHOF)**, the Festival will discover and showcase musical talent. This will be realized through a performance-concert sidebar that features local, regional and international artists at numerous venues during the week of the Festival.

"The Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame is excited to be working with the Rhode Island International Film Festival to produce music programs and events that will highlight the important relationship between film and music," says **Bob Billington**, RIMHOF Chair.

Rick Bellaire, RIMHOF Vice-Chair added: "This is a great example of the Music Hall of Fame's desire to work with other organizations to strengthen our state's music and arts community by broadening opportunities for local musicians, filmmakers and other artists and arts professionals."

Additionally, during 2015, working with the Anthony Quinn Foundation, the Festival will present "ANTHONY QUINN: A 100 YEAR LEGACY, a year-long focus on the art, history and film of legendary actor, Anthony Quinn. Beginning in February 2015 and running through November 2015, this project will include free screenings of his films at libraries across the state with a curated monthly series; scholarly monographs for each presentation; panel discussions with film and history scholars; special breakout screenings of signature films, a student essay contest (high school and college) on the legacy of this seminal artist and a video competition geared for area college students to recreate a scene from one of five films that will be showcased during the year. Details about this program will be released shortly.

The Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization that supports and promotes the film arts in Rhode Island and throughout New England. Over the past two decades, the Rhode Island International Film Festival has screened 3,896 independent films and videos out of 42,935 entries, presented 905 World/North American premieres, featured over 700 entries that were locally produced, and hosted 3,358 filmmakers and crew. Since its inception, over 360,000 film lovers have enjoyed the Rhode Island International Film Festival, its film presentations and programming.

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

The **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)**, has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. This confluence of art and commerce brought together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers last year. Ranked as one of the top 10 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is also a qualifying festival for the Short Film Academy Award through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. There are 19 film festivals worldwide which share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England. The Festival takes place every August. For more information about RIIFF, please visit www.rifilmfest.org.

For more information about the **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running **August 4-9, 2015** at **The Vets** (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit our website at **www.RIFilmFest.org** or call **401.861.4445**.

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